

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.       A method for providing access to a resource, comprising the steps of:
- 2               providing a graphical user interface (GUI) to an operator with which client
- 3               connectivity with the resource can be enabled, the GUI being configured such that the
- 4               process used by the operator to facilitate connectivity using the GUI is the same
- 5               regardless of which underlying connectivity method is used;
- 6               receiving commands of the operator with the GUI that convey the identity of the
- 7               client and the resource to be accessed by the client;
- 8               determining the client network configuration; and
- 9               establishing client connectivity to the resource.
- 1           2.       The method of claim 1, wherein the GUI comprises lists of clients and
- 2               available resources.
- 1           3.       The method of claim 2, wherein the step of receiving commands
- 2               comprises first receiving selection of a client for which connectivity is to be provided.
- 1           4.       The method of claim 3, wherein the step of receiving commands further
- 2               comprises detecting association of a resource with a client VLAN.

1           5.     The method of claim 4, wherein association of a resource with a client  
2     VLAN is communicated with the GUI by dragging the resource and dropping it on the  
3     client VLAN.

1           6.     The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining the client network  
2     configuration comprises accessing a connectivity database that stores the client network  
3     configurations.

1           7.     A system for providing access to a resource, comprising:  
2                 means for providing a graphical user interface (GUI) to an operator with which  
3     client connectivity with the resource can be enabled, the GUI being configured such that  
4     the process used by the operator to facilitate connectivity using the GUI is the same  
5     regardless of which underlying connectivity system is used;  
6                 means for receiving commands of the operator with the GUI that convey the  
7     identity of the client and the resource to be accessed by the client;  
8                 means for determining the client network configuration; and  
9                 means for establishing client connectivity to the resource.

1           8.     The system of claim 7, wherein the GUI comprises lists of clients and  
2     available resources.

1           9.     The system of claim 8, wherein the means for receiving commands  
2 comprises means for receiving selection of a client for which connectivity is to be  
3 provided.

1           10.    The system of claim 9, wherein the means for receiving commands further  
2 comprises means for detecting association of a resource with a client VLAN.

1           11.    The system of claim 7, wherein the means for determining the client  
2 network configuration comprises means for accessing a connectivity database that stores  
3 the client network configurations.

1           12.    A computer readable medium for providing access to a resource,  
2 comprising:

3           logic configured to provide a graphical user interface (GUI) to an operator with  
4 which client connectivity to the resource is enabled, the GUI being configured such that  
5 the process used by the operator to facilitate connectivity using the GUI is the same  
6 regardless of which underlying connectivity computer readable medium is used;

7           logic configured to receive commands of the operator with the GUI that convey  
8 the identity of the client and the resource to be accessed by the client;

9           logic configured to determine the client network configuration; and

10          logic configured to establish client connectivity to the resource.

1           13.    The computer readable medium of claim 12, wherein the GUI comprises  
2   lists of clients and available resources.

1           14.    The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the logic configured  
2   to receive commands comprises logic configured to receive selection of a client for which  
3   connectivity is to be provided.

1           15.    The computer readable medium of claim 14, wherein the logic configured  
2   to receive commands further comprises logic configured to detect association of a  
3   resource with a client VLAN.

1           16.    The computer readable medium of claim 12, wherein the logic configured  
2   to determine the client network configuration comprises logic configured to access a  
3   connectivity database that stores the client network configurations.